

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /058 W

-----130545Z 044585 /21

R 122255Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478

INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, MX

SUBJECT: GOM DROPS CHARGES AGAINST 424 "POLITICAL PRISONERS"

1. THE GOM ANNOUNCED APRIL 11 THAT IT STOPPED LEGAL ACTION AGAINST 424 PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL BEARING OF ARMS, REBELLION, SEDITION, RIOTING AND CONSPIRACY. ABOUT A FOURTH OF THE 424 WERE ALREADY FREE ON BAIL; THE REST ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING RELEASED. SOME OF THOSE AFFECTED WERE ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN TERRORIST GROUPS SUCH AS THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE, THE ARMED REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MAR), THE UNITED ZAPATA FRONT, AND OTHER, LESS IMPORTANT GROUPS, WHICH EXISTED BRIEFLY FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO.

2. EXCLUDED FROM THE ACTION WERE GOM CHARGES OF VIOLENT CRIMES, EVEN THOUGH THE ACTS MAY HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

3. COMMENT: IN MAKING PUBLIC THE ACTION (DATED MARCH 28) ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES SANCHEZ NOTED THAT "NOW WE CAN AFFIRM THAT THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEXICO", SUGGESTING TO US THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE WISHED TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM SUCH ACCUSATIONS FROM ABROAD. BUT THE ACTION PROBABLY OWES MORE TO A PURELY INTERNAL CONSIDERATION TO ENCOURAGE VIOLENT DISSIDENTS TO RETURN TO NON-VIOLENT OPPOSITION, AND SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH A POLITICAL REFORM ANNOUNCED APRIL 1, ON WHICH SEPTEL FOLLOWS. THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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